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LIFE AND WRITINGS
OF
ELISHA NORTH, M.D.,

BY HIS GRANDSON,
H. CARRINGTON BOLTON, Ph.D.

Read before the New London County Medical Association. April 7, 1887.

“In Connecticut medical science has been cultivated with great diligence and the happiest results.”

JAMES THACHER, M.D.

AUTHOR'S EDITION.

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MEMOIR OF DR. ELISHA NORTH.

BY H. CARRINGTON BOLTON, PH.D.

[Read before the New London County Medical Society, April 7, 1887.]

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Elisha North was born in Goshen, Conn., January 8, 1771, of Connecticut ancestry. He was a lineal descendant of John North (born 1615) who is believed to be the progenitor of all bearing the family name in the United States. John left England at the age of twenty, sailing in the "Susan and Ellen," and landing in Boston, he soon made his way with other emigrants to Hartford, where he did not linger, but settled in the beautiful valley of Farmington. This was in 1635. He purchased a house and lot on the main street of the village, and five years later married; six sons and three daughters were born to him between 1641 and 1659. In 1653 land was entered to him in Farmington, and when the unoccupied lands in the ancient town were divided according to their lists, John, with his two elder sons, John and Samuel, were among the eighty-four proprietors. He was "made free before the court" at Hartford, on May 21, 1657 (Trumbull's Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, Hartford, 1850. p. 297). He died in 1691, aged seventy-six.

John North's fourth son, Thomas (born 1649), was one of the pioneers in the settlement of Northington (now Avon), Conn. He was a soldier in the Indian wars, and had a soldier's grant of land. In 1708 (?) he married Hannah Newell, and they had five sons and five daughters; his sixth child, Joseph (born 1693), moved from Northington to Goshen, Litchfield County, where he continued to follow the business of his ancestors — farming. Joseph married at the age of forty-one widow Martha Smith (being her third hus-

band), and they had five children. The eldest, Joseph Jr., born 1736, was the father of the subject of this sketch. Joseph, Jr., developed a talent for surgery and medicine, and though he had no regular medical education, he acquired a considerable medical practice. An old chronicle says: "He borrowed books and got ideas from Dr. Meigs," and considering the fact that there was no medical school in the United States in his youth,* this was the best substitute for systematic instruction which could be secured. In 1770 Joseph, Jr. married Lucy Cowles of Farmington, and they had nine children. It is interesting to note that the three eldest sons, Elisha, Joseph, and Ethel, inherited the tastes of this self-made physician, and followed their father's profession. Elisha, the eldest, was born in Goshen January 8, 1771; he entered upon the labors and responsibilities of an active medical man at the age of sixteen, when he took charge of a broken limb, which he succeeded in setting and healing without assistance. He studied with his father, accompanying him in his long drives over the bleak hills of Litchfield County, and gained a practical experience which afterwards served him well. But he felt the need of more systematic training and larger insight into the art of the physician, and made his way to Hartford to pursue studies under the celebrated Dr. Lemuel Hopkins (born 1750, practiced in Hartford from 1784 until his death in 1801). Returning to his native place he practiced until he had accumulated the necessary means to defray his expenses in another and more extended search for higher instruction; at that time his choice of medical schools in the United States was limited to three, the medical college of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, founded in 1765; the medical school of Columbia College, New York, founded in 1768; and the medical department of Harvard College, founded in 1782. Exactly what determined him to prefer the Philadelphia school we do not know, unless by reason of its being the longest established, and on account of the celebrity of its teachers. The schools at Cambridge and New York city were much nearer, but he made the then considerable journey to Philadelphia. He matriculated at the University in the fall of 1793, and pursued his studies under the dis-

*The first Medical College in the United States was established in Philadelphia in 1765, when Joseph was twenty-nine years of age. This college first conferred the degree of M.D. in 1771.

tinguished Dr. Benjamin Rush and his able colleagues.* He did not remain long enough to obtain a diploma; indeed, but a small part of those who studied at the medical schools in the last century secured diplomas; in the first fifteen years of the Medical School of Philadelphia, the number of graduates averaged about five and one-half a year, while as many as seventy students were in attendance at one time. In the latter half of the eighteen century attendance at a medical school was resorted to but by few of those who took upon themselves the responsibilities of practitioners of medicine, and Dr. North's enterprise is an indication of the earnestness of purpose which characterized him throughout life.

Meanwhile, the physicians of Connecticut had succeeded in obtaining a charter for a State Medical Association; this was in October, 1792. at Middletown. At the adjourned meeting of the convention held May 15, 1793, at Hartford, Elisha North was admitted to membership in the society. He was at this time only twenty-two years old, yet was regarded as worthy of honor.

On leaving the Philadelphia Medical College, he resumed his practice in Goshen, and immediately took a high rank in his profession. Zealous and indefatigable as a student, he was foremost to adopt improvements in medicine; not blindly, but after careful trial of their value; he endeavored not merely to keep up with the current thought and novel usages but to contribute to the art reforms and inventions of his own busy brain.

Soon after settling in Goshen, at the age of twenty-five, he married Hannah (December 22, 1797), the daughter of Frederick Beach, his fellow townsman, of an ancient and honorable Connecticut family. Of his happiness in domestic life we shall speak at a later period. We may anticipate, however, to remark that his wife was a true helpmeet in the highest degree.

Always eager to seize upon novelties in the healing art which

*In 1793 the Faculty of the Medical School of the University was constituted as follows:

Surgery and Anatomy,	Dr. William Shippen, Jr.
Surgery and Anatomy,	Dr. Casper Wistar (adjunct).
Practice of Physics,	Dr. Adam Kulm.
Institutes and Clinical Medicine, .	Dr. Benjamin Rush.
Chemistry,	Dr. James Woodhouse.
Materia Medica,	Dr. Samuel P. Griffiths.
Botany and Natural History, . . .	Dr. Benjamin S. Barton.

Early History of Medicine in Philadelphia, by George W. Norris, M.D. Philadelphia, 1886. 4to. Privately distributed.

promised to benefit the human race Dr. North hailed with delight the announcement by Dr. Jenner of the results of his experiments in vaccination. Dr. Jenner's work: "Enquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ," published in 1798, did not meet in England with unqualified acceptance, yet but a few months later the young practitioner of Goshen is found experimenting with the new process in a scientific spirit which challenges our admiration.

One of the first men in America to proclaim his confidence in the statements of Dr. Jenner was Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, Professor of Medicine in Harvard College. In July, 1800, he procured vaccine matter from England, and boldly tested "the experiment in the persons of four of his own children, the eldest being seven years of age, who thus became the first subjects of vaccination in the United States;"* and being afterwards exposed to small-pox infection in the hospital of Dr. Aspinwall they proved to be unsusceptible of its influence."—(Dr. James Thacher's *Am. Med. Biography*, Boston, 1828.)

In September of the same year, Dr. James Jackson of Boston, returning from London, where he had studied under Dr. Woodville, practiced vaccination in Boston and vicinity. Before the close of the year, Elisha North was pursuing his own investigations. He himself describes the first steps as follows:

"A few weeks only before vaccination was begun in Goshen, Dr. Waterhouse of Boston, had received vaccine matter from England. I took my first vaccine fluid warm and fresh from a person in New Haven, who was visited for such a purpose. The distance was nearly fifty miles. This patient had been vaccinated six or seven days before. There was a complete failure very soon afterwards in the business of vaccination in New Haven. As soon as I arrived home I vaccinated three patients, two of whom were children. The children went through the regular process of vaccination, but the virus failed to infect the adult. Those children were immediately put to the usual test of variolous inoculation. The variolous infection occasioned very small effects which soon disappeared."

* According to Mr. Sidney E. Morse, the first four persons vaccinated in America were a member of the family of Dr. Waterhouse, the Rev. Dr. Jedidiah Morse, Richard C. Morse his son, and Sidney E. Morse, himself. *Life of Jedidiah Morse, D.D.*, by Wm. B. Sprague. New York, 1874, pp. 272-273. It is peculiar that Mr. Morse says Dr. Whitehouse vaccinated "one member of his family"; Dr. Thrasher says: "four of his children"; Dr. North says: "six of his children."

Vaccine was introduced into Philadelphia in the Autumn of 1801. Dr. John Redman Coxe relates experimenting on his son, December 29, 1801, in *Phil. Med. Museum*, (V. 224, 1805).

And then he adds with great candor and modesty:

“I was undoubtedly more indebted to chance than to skill for my good fortune in those experiments; for as was afterwards learned, nothing was known on this side the Atlantic with regard to the proper time for taking vaccine virus.”

Some months later he addressed a letter to Dr. Waterhouse, stating the difficulties which had attended vaccination in his vicinity, and the Boston physician replied he had experienced similar perplexity. But a few days later he wrote that he had just received a letter from Dr. Jenner communicating the following golden rule in vaccination: “Take the fluid for vaccination on or before the expiration of the eighth day.” Of this rule Dr. North, thirty years later, remarks: “This is now known to every tyro in the medical profession, but none can realize its value but those who have experienced the evils occasioned by the want of such information.” And it was with this in remembrance that he attributed his first success to chance rather than skill.

The “business of vaccination” as Dr. North calls it, was extensively carried on in Goshen in the winter of 1800–01, by himself, and by Dr. Jesse Carrington, of whom he candidly says: “He was my rival in business.” Dr. Carrington was, however, not so fortunate, and met with a calamity at the outset; he had procured some virus from a traveling person (designated in Dr. North’s blunt language as a *kine pock peddler*) with which he vaccinated his wife, and others. After Mrs. Carrington got through with what her husband supposed was the *kine pock*, he persuaded her to have variolous infection put into her arm. The unfortunate and believing wife was easily made to understand the object in view, namely, to convince an incredulous public of the utility of the new practice; but to the great disappointment and chagrin of Dr. Carrington his wife broke out with the genuine small pox, and she had to be removed in accordance with the law to a hospital in Cornwall, ten miles distant. Of this incident, Dr. North says: “This calamity and the two experiments I had previously made, were very beneficial to all within their knowledge.”

Both these Goshen physicians made a vast number of experiments, some with genuine vaccine lymph, and some with such as proved to be spurious, and also with variolous infection, but no disaster similar to that related again occurred. By degrees they

acquired knowledge for the discrimination of genuine and spurious matters. During the winter many persons were vaccinated half a dozen times before the desired effect would be produced. A trouble and vexation arose which, says Dr. North, was "much greater than in future will probably ever again occur."

Besides the perplexity occasioned by ignorance, these early investigators had to encounter a host of other vexations occasioned by the prejudices of those around both in and out of the medical profession.

We again quote Dr. North at length:

"In the spring of the year 1801 there was no genuine vaccine matter this side of the Atlantic, except in Goshen, and in the hands of Dr. Waterhouse or others in his vicinity. During the winter of 1800-01 there was a complete failure in the cities of New York and Philadelphia, in obtaining genuine vaccine virus. This circumstance enabled me to introduce the kine pock for the first time into the City of New York. This was done in April, 1801, by the agency of a Mr. Hunt. Mr. Hunt visited New York on his own business while he had the kine pock in his arm, and that, too, in the right stage for taking matter. Mr. Hunt at my request called on Dr. Edward Miller, who vaccinated others from his arm. I vaccinated Mr. Hunt from the arm of a little girl. This girl was vaccinated by virus taken in a fluid state from the hand of a Mr. Ives; the pustule on his hand had been derived directly from the udder of a cow, by milking. Thus the first genuine kine pock that was ever introduced into the City of New York originated from an American source."

So far Dr. North's own words. The writer of this sketch has in his possession the original letter of Dr. Edward Miller thanking Dr. North for sending him vaccine matter; the following is a transcription of the letter:

(Copy.)

NEW YORK, 30th April, 1801.

SIR,—I have received by the favor of Mr. Lyman, the letter and enclosures which you have obligingly transmitted to me. Your opinions and practice in respect to cow-pox seem to have been formed in the most judicious and accurate manner; and I cannot but congratulate the district of country which makes up the sphere of your professional labors, on the discernment and ability you display in the introduction and encouragement of such a means (for it scarcely deserves to be called a disease) of preventing and exterminating one of the most terrific distempers when not mitigated by inoculation that ever afflicted the human race.

The discovery of cow-pox must undoubtedly be considered by all intelligent and reflecting persons as one of the most interesting discoveries which distinguish the present inquisitive and enlightened period.

Our failure in the propagation of cow-pox in this city was solely owing to the spuriousness of the matter employed—a disappointment which seems often to have happened in different parts of Britain till physicians became experimentally well versed in the peculiar appearances of the genuine disease. Such occurrences, however, will probably become less frequent as soon as the community and especially medical persons are thoroughly apprized of the sources of fallacy and of the necessity of giving strict attention to all the circumstances of discrimination. I think your publications very properly adapted to guard against the mistakes incidental to this new practice.

I am greatly obliged to you for the kindness of sending some of the vaccine matter. I shall employ it without delay, and if it should fail to communicate the disease, shall take the liberty of requesting a further supply with a view to another trial.

Wishing you every degree of success in your meritorious exertions to extend the usefulness of this discovery, and to improve the condition of the science of medicine, I request you to accept my assurances of the most perfect respect and esteem.

EDWARD MILLER.

DR. ELISHA NORTH, Goshen, Conn.

Dr. Edward Miller was one of the prominent physicians of New York city, an editor (with Dr. S. L. Mitchell) of the *Medical Repository*, and a man of large practice.

In the above letter Dr. Miller refers to the “failure” in New York city to introduce vaccination. Dr. James Thacher, the biographer, says in this connection:

“Dr. Miller of New York received vaccine matter from Dr. Pearson of London, which failed however to produce the genuine disease, nor was another supply sent on from Boston attended with better success.” (*Am. Med. Biogr.*, I, 29.*)

Dr. Thacher says nothing of Dr. North’s participation in the matter, probably because the facts had not yet been published at the time he (Dr. Thacher) wrote: In January, 1802, a “Cow-pox Institution” was established in New York city. The circumstances connected with the man Ives are too important to be passed by. Dr. North thus narrates them:

“In May, 1801, a young man by the name of Ives came to consult me as a physician. He said he had chills, headache, and fever; also a swelling under his arm and a sore on his hand; this sore upon examination I found to be the cow-pox pustule. Upon inquiry I became completely satisfied that this pustule was produced from infection derived directly from the udder of a cow, by milking. Being pleased with this discovery

* See also: *Med. Repository*, Vol. IV, pp. 79, 204, and 321 (1801.)

(considering it to be the first of the kind which had been made in America), I prosecuted my inquiries still further. The result of these inquiries amounted to this, that this cow did not get her disease from the human subject nor from the horse. . . . Infection taken from Ives' hand (for I saw him at the right stage for taking infection) produced the genuine disease in others."

In the same year, almost the very month that Dr. North was making these observations, Dr. Edward Miller wrote in the *Medical Repository*:

"We hope our readers in the United States will endeavor to ascertain whether the vaccine disease is to be found among the cows of this country, and if so they will employ infection derived from a domestic, in preference to a foreign source." (*Med. Reposit.*, IV, 322, 1801.)

How Dr. North anticipated this suggestion has been stated.

Nearly forty years after Dr. North had thus established the identity of cow-pox and small-pox, the discovery was claimed for Dr. Ceeley of Aylesbury, England. In an article which appeared in the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, the following passage occurs:

"What many gentlemen in this country failed to accomplish, we are happy to say has been at length achieved by one of the members of our association, Mr. Ceeley of Aylesbury. He resolved to attempt to ascertain whether he could by inoculation impregnate the cow with human small-pox. Twice he has succeeded in accomplishing this important object after many previous fruitless trials. His experiments were conducted in the presence of five medical men and one veterinary surgeon. He produced five vesicles on the cows, from which source several hundred patients have been vaccinated, who have exhibited all the phenomena of vaccination in the most perfect form and complete degree."

The publication of this caused a contributor to the *New London Advocate* and *Republican* (February 3, 1841), to take up the cudgels in behalf of "our venerable and respected fellow-citizen, Dr. Elisha North," which he did by republishing the account of Mr. Ives' case just quoted.

I have before me, as I write, a small piece of paper, yellow with age, on which is written in Dr. North's peculiar yet legible hand:

"An extract from a discussion had in the *Cheraw Gazette* (S. C.), and in the *Peoples' Advocate*, New London: 'Dr. Jenner discovered the utility of vaccination, while it must in future be unquestionably admitted that the combined investigations of Drs. North and Ceeley in England have established the identity of the vaccine prophylactic with the small-pox.' "

The old manuscript ends here. Obviously Dr. North had

copied the extract so flattering to his *amour propre*, with a view to preservation.

The great opposition which the introduction of vaccination met at the hands of common people is a familiar topic, yet we believe new light may be thrown upon its extravagant character by quoting a few passages of Dr. North's narrative: He says:

“The excitement or opposition ran so high and was so very unreasonable that to get rid of the convincing evidence I was myself, in particular, actually accused of using on design bad small-pox matter. To silence such slander, I begged as a favor that five of my vaccinated patients would visit with me a small-pox hospital at Winchester, eight miles distant, and there be inoculated with warm variolous infection, and likewise see the small-pox for themselves; for some, among other objections, maintained that the kine pock was a worse malady than the small-pox. This last experiment was actually tried and succeeded, and it was acknowledged to be a fair one.”

“Another trouble arose in the progress of this business. After we had succeeded with much labor and expense in establishing the utility of vaccination, too many thought that they could vaccinate themselves after they had learned how from us; and such persons doubtless thought it was perfectly a fair game to defraud their teachers of the pitiful fees which were expected.”

Dr. North states that he succeeded in driving the small-pox from the adjoining town of Cornwall, but neither he nor Dr. Carrington “made the business of vaccination profitable notwithstanding their great attention.” An interesting advertisement of Dr. North in the *Connecticut Courant* of 1811, will be found in the appendix (D).

Dr. North published his comments on the researches of Dr. Waterhouse as set forth in the latter's pamphlet printed in 1802. Dr. North remarks that he thought it his “duty to exhibit much demonstrative evidence with respect to the utility of vaccination,” and contrasts his own method of investigation with that of Dr. Waterhouse to the prejudice of the latter. Dr. North admits (in 1829), the imperfection of physicians' knowledge of the management of vaccination, and makes the pertinent inquiry: “Is it not expedient in the present state of our knowledge to have recourse to the cow for vaccine virus as often as may be practicable?”

A question obviously prophetic of these days when “vaccine farms” are recognized institutions auxiliary to the practice of vaccination.

In the spring of 1806 a malignant disease broke out in Massachusetts, which baffled the physicians, soon became epidemic, and proved a terrible scourge. It was first noticed by Drs. Danielson and Mann of Medfield, Mass., in March. The fever was accompanied by a characteristic maculated eruption which caused it to receive the popular name "Spotted Fever." Dr. Miner called it *typhus syncopalis*. Dr. North called it *typhus petechialis*. This disease ravaged New England at various periods from 1806 till 1816. It first appeared in Connecticut in April 10, 1807, at Winchester, Litchfield County, about eight miles from Dr. North's home. Writing of the disease he says: "A disorder has come among us like a flood of mighty waters bringing along with it all the horrors of a most dreadful plague." The history of typhus and its symptoms, as well as the methods of treatment are well known; for a non-medical man to venture on this ground would be a dangerous experiment, all we desire to do is to show the part which Dr. Elisha North took in checking this malady, and informing the public of his experiences and successes. When the disease broke out in Winchester, sweating and bleeding of patients was resorted to; Dr. North at the very outset came to the conclusion that "Death was not occasioned by violence of fever, inflammation, or putrefaction of the system, but by an unaccountable, sudden, and violent prostration of the energy of the brain and nervous system" (Spotted Fever, p. 99). Accordingly, he adopted a method of treatment opposite to that in vogue, "stimulating to the fullest extent," and using "wine, brandy, opium, camphor, Peruvian bark, serpentaria, oil of peppermint, castor, elixir vitriol, blisters, and sinapisms." In his treatise on spotted fever Dr. North devotes an entire chapter to the "Quantity of stimulants to be used," admitting that in some of the cases reported the quantity given was "enormous." Elsewhere he writes:

"I am decidedly of the opinion this disease requires stimulating remedies; but by this I do not mean that in every case patients must take brandy by quarts, or wine by gallons, for I believe that it requires as much judgment in using stimulants as it does in reducing the system" (Letter to Dr. Elijah Munson.—*Phil. Med. Museum*).

During the winter of 1807-8 Dr. North prescribed for sixty-five patients suffering with this disease, of these he lost but one, the second patient to whom he was called (Spotted Fever, p. 99). In

Winchester when the disease first appeared about one-third died (page 127).

Many physicians adopted the plan of using stimulants, some independently, and others in consequence of the publication of Dr. North. Between 1807 and 1810 spotted fever prevailed to an alarming extent in Hartford, Farmington, Wethersfield, Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, Canton, Simsbury, Torrington, Winchester, New Hartford, and Goshen, and the popular excitement concerning it found utterances in the columns of the newspapers of the day. Mr. Babcock, editor of the *American Mercury* (Hartford), was very emphatic in his complaint of physicians with respect to this plague.

The Reverend Dr. Ebenezer Fitch, President of Williams College, was bereaved of his eldest son, "a promising and hopefully pious youth" on the morning of Commencement Day, 1807. This affliction stimulated Dr. Fitch to publish in the *Berkshire Reporter*, of Pittsfield, a letter with two communications, one from Dr. Elisha North of Goshen, and one from Dr. Elijah Lyman of Torrington, "two very respectable physicians" whom he had addressed with inquiries. This, in the earliest publication of Dr. North on spotted fever, bears the date February 12, 1808. It is reprinted in Dr. North's treatise (pages 97 to 102), and has been quoted above. A year later Dr. North published in the *Philadelphia Medical Museum* another letter addressed to Dr. Elijah Munson, a prominent physician of New Haven. It is worthy of remark that both these publications were in answer to inquiries made by persons addressed and by request, facts bearing testimony to the unobtrusive and rather retiring character of their author.

In the second letter named, dated February 12, 1809, Dr. North calls the disease "Typhus petechialis or the malignant Petechial or Spotted Fever," describes the symptoms and his method of treatment, which is substantially as given. One year later Dr. Timothy Hall of East Hartford read a paper (April 10, 1810) before the Connecticut Medical Society on spotted fever, in which, after detailing his experience, he adopts the views of Dr. North, and says:

"Dr. North's method of practice coincides more with my own ideas of the proper method of treating this disease than anything I have seen written on the subject." (Reprint of the proceedings of the Connecticut Medical Society from 1792 to 1829 inclusive [Hartford, 1884]).

The disease continued to spread and to cause great mortality.

At a meeting of the Councillors of the Massachusetts Medical Society held February 7, 1810, it was

VOTED, That a committee be appointed to collect information respecting the history and treatment of a malignant disease commonly called spotted fever, which is now prevailing in the county of Worcester, and has prevailed, within five years past, in Hartford, Conn., and Providence, R. I., and report at the next meeting of the society or councillors."

The interest of medical men in this epidemic is further shown by frequent contributions to both the secular press and to medical journals.

Dr. Samuel Woodward of Torrington, the Rev. Festus Foster, Dr. Bestor, Dr. Fiske, Dr. Williamson, besides those previously named, took prominent parts in this public discussion. These divers contributions Dr. North collected, and together with his own clinical observations and views, published in a duodecimo volume to which we have already alluded. It bears the date 1811, and was printed in New York by T. and F. Swords, printers to the Faculty of Columbia College (for full title see Appendix). In the preface the author states that he has undertaken "to preserve and bring into one view those things which have already been published," in hopes of aiding the medical fraternity; and he adds: "This work was not written for amusement but for utility; the author had a double purpose to accomplish, not only to exhibit the truth respecting the nature and treatment of this disease, but also to produce evidence of this truth." Accordingly, he appends descriptions of many cases.

Dr. North's writings are characterized by great candor, some might say bluntness; he did not shrink from calling a spade a spade, and some persons evidently felt aggrieved, as the following shows. Thirty-five or forty years after the treatise on spotted fever was published, Dr. North planned a second edition; the well worn copy which he used for the purpose is now in my hands; it bears his MS. notes on many pages, and contains more than sixty slips of paper on which are written the proposed changes and additions for the second edition which never saw the light. On one of these slips, in connection with the preface just quoted, we read: "A bigoted person has told me that this preface was extremely faulty; if it be so my brain is so organized that I cannot perceive it."

We shall not undertake to give an analysis of Dr. North's work,

which, though rare, can be found in certain medical libraries. Another quotation from his unpublished notes may be given, since it shows again his dry and candid expression of opinion. In the chapter eight "Of Submurias Hydrargyri," he speaks strongly against the use of mercury, and dwells on its pernicious effects on the constitution. The second edition, had it been published, would have contained the following addition to this chapter.

"A physician said to me years ago that I ought to be ashamed of what I published in the first edition of this work in regard to mercury. With the permission of persons whose heads may be organized somewhat like that person alluded to, I will now state that during more than forty years practice I have known the organization of so many persons so permanently injured by the abuse of that highly fashionable medicine that I think now, as I did then, that cautions in regard to it are highly proper."

In this chapter he also says: "I have myself treated not less than two hundred patients with this disease (spotted fever); of these I have lost two. I have never given calomel except to three of the whole number" (Spotted Fever, p. 67).

Dr. North's treatise was favorably received by the medical fraternity. The editors of the *Medical Repository* highly approved the work, as did the editors of the *New York Medical Journal*.

The editors of the *American Medical and Philosophical Register* (New York), in reviewing the treatise say :

"This is a very respectable work, and by far the largest that has yet been published on the spotted fever. The author appears to have been very diligent in collecting his materials, has evinced considerable discrimination in the selection, and has put together a body of information which, independent of its present usefulness, well deserves a place as a permanent book of reference. But to the merits of a judicious compiler, Dr. North justly lays claim to the character of an *original observer*, and the facts and observations which he himself has related of this disease, which still prevails in different parts of the Eastern States, are among the most valuable portions of his interesting book." (*American Medical and Philosophical Review*, Vol. II, page 440. See Adv. in *Connecticut Gazette*, Aug. 26, 1812.)

Dr. North had now reached the age of forty-two, and his reputation for skill in surgery and judgment in medical art extended over the whole State of Connecticut. Simple and unostentatious in his manners and habits, he never sought selfishly his own aggrandizement ; but his worth was appreciated and caused him to be widely resorted to for surgical practice.

Early in the year 1812 there came to him an invitation to remove to the city of New London, then an important port and a center of the whale fishery. The temptation to exchange the vigorous climate of Litchfield County for the more congenial one of the coast, to exchange the hardships of a country physician's life for the amenities of city practice, as well as the opportunities of more frequent and quicker communication with the outside world, and the advantages which would accrue to his growing family now comprising six members, were some of the weighty reasons which decided him to seek a new home.

He moved with his family to New London, May 8, 1812, and soon secured the esteem of his new circle of acquaintances. A contemporary writer, speaking of his career as a physician in New London, says:

"In the practice of his profession, Dr. North exhibited a remarkable degree of caution, deliberation, and careful reflection. When concerned with the health and comfort, and we may add, the moral welfare of his patients or friends, he exercised a conscientious care and thoughtfulness that preserved him from unsafe enthusiasm or dangerous and extreme views. As a counseling physician he enjoyed the confidence and friendship of his brethren, and was much valued for his philosophical habits of mind in cases of difficulty and uncertainty."

Soon after his settlement in New London, the second war with Great Britain broke out, seriously disturbing the prosperity of the seaboard city. A British fleet controlled the entrance to the Sound, and a petty warfare on the water and on the coast kept the inhabitants on the alert and fearful of disaster. Yet "during the whole war not a man was killed by the enemy in Connecticut, and only *one* in its waters upon the coast." (Miss Caulkins' *History of New London*, p. 634.) During this bloodless war the garrisons of Forts Trumbull and Griswold required the attentions of a medical man and Dr. North was called into this service.*

At the early period of which we write, medical etiquette allowed much greater freedom in advertisements in the local press than the present vigorous usage. In examining an imperfect file of the *Connecticut Gazette*, preserved in the rooms of the New London County Historical Society, we have found several interesting

* Probably in the volunteer service only, for the Adjutant-General of the army informs me under date of March 4, 1887, that "the name Elisha North does not appear on the records of the U. S. A., War of 1812, as a commissioned officer or enlisted man."

advertisements showing their prevalence. These we relegate to the Appendix. In the long advertisement of April, 1819, Dr. North offers his services as a surgeon in certain special cases named, and then followed this endorsement :

“ We the subscribers being personal friends and medical brethren, residing in the same town with Dr. North, believe the publication of the above will probably benefit society.”

[Signed] THOS. COIT, M. D.,
ARCHIBALD MERCER,
D. T. BRAINARD,
N. S. PERKINS.

When one physician can thus secure the public endorsement of his four rivals, it indicates a state of harmony hardly credible in these degenerate days.

At the first meeting of the New London County Medical Society, held after Dr. North's removal to the city, he was admitted to membership (September 22, 1812) : and he appears to have taken an active part in the work of the society during many years. He served as clerk in 1815, as chairman in 1823 and in 1831. He was frequently elected as delegate to the State Association, and was thrice appointed to read papers before the County Society (1814, 1829, 1834). For the last twelve years of his connection with the society the honor of being “over sixty years” exempted him from dues, in accordance with the rules.

Dr. North had joined the Medical Society of Litchfield County in 1811 (September 24th).

Up to the date of his leaving Goshen, Elisha North, though doubtless styled “Doctor” by his friends and acquaintances, had not received the medical degree. On the title page of his work on spotted fever he does not affix any title to his name. Of his medical education we have written, of his qualifications for a diploma there could be no question, and therefore it is not surprising to find that the State Medical Association, at the meeting held in New Haven, October 20, 1813, voted to confer on him the honorary degree of M.D. Dr. North's name appears in this same year as a member of the Examining Committee of New London County. Between the years 1813 and 1821 he was almost continuously sent as a delegate to the annual meetings of the State society; in 1816 he was appointed on the committee to recom-

mend suitable candidates for a degree of M.D. He apparently held no other office in the State society.

Dr. North's reputation as a successful practitioner rests on his skill as a surgeon as well as in the art of healing. In New London he paid especial attention to diseases of the eye and met with great success, exhibiting good judgment, courage, and delicacy of operation. Writing of himself he says:

"I have had the pleasure to prevent total blindness and restore sight to twelve or thirteen persons during the last three years. These would now probably be moping about in total darkness and be a burden to society and to themselves, had it not been for my individual exertions." (See advertisement in Appendix.)

His success as an oculist led him in the spring of 1817 to open an eye infirmary in New London, which was without question the first institution exclusively devoted to eye surgery in the United States. Of this he writes:

"We had attended to eye patients before that time, but it occurred to us then, that we might multiply our number of cases of that description, and thereby increase our knowledge, by advertising the public in regard to an eye institution. This was done; and we succeeded, although not to our wishes in a pecuniary view of the case. Our success or exertions probably hastened in this country the establishment of larger and better eye infirmaries." (*Science of Life*, pp. 88-90.)

Dr. North's allusion to his ill success pecuniarily reminds us of another passage in which he writes:

"Judging from the lowness of medical fees in Connecticut, one would suppose that property regarded as a means of health, was held by the community in higher estimation than health itself."

We may here mention that his skill in delicate operations was perhaps augmented by his lefthandedness, which was marked and persistent. The lack of discrimination in treatment of ophthalmia at this period is illustrated by an anecdote related at the expense of one of his contemporaries. A man came to Dr. North's infirmary suffering with an inflamed eye; after careful examination the Doctor removed some foreign substance like a bit of charcoal, which had caused the irritation, and prescribing a soothing lotion dismissed him. But before the man left the Doctor casually inquired "what have you been doing for your eye?" The man said he had been to Dr. Blank. "Ah!" said Dr. North, "and

what did he do for you?" "He gave me," said the unfortunate man, "thirteen doses of calomel!"

Few persons are now living who were contemporary with Dr. North; many of those still surviving testify with sincerity to his skill as a surgeon. Proofs of this in individual cases are wanting, but he has left in print descriptions of some of his ingenious improvements in methods of operating. He devised a novel method of performing the operation of lithotomy which need not here be detailed. (See Bibliography in Appendix.) He invented an improved trephine and a speculum oculi, both of which he exhibited at a meeting of the State Medical Association in Hartford, in 1821 (May 9th). He also invented a trocar and a new form of catheter, which latter is publicly endorsed by his contemporaries and fellow citizens, Drs. Coit, Mercer, Brainard, and Perkins. This was in 1829. (*Science of Life*, page 201.)

About the year 1824 Dr. North, convinced of the advantages of life on a farm, purchased a small property in East Lyme and removed there with his family, driving into the city for his medical practice. On this farm he found a deposit of peat and he made many experiments with it as a fuel. One of Dr. North's marked characteristics was his habit of seizing upon neglected phenomena, or novel views, adjusting them to existing circumstances, discussing them in a philosophical manner, and then endeavoring to adapt them to philanthropic uses; in short, he rode his hobbies and sought to induce his friends to make them their own. Accordingly peat became for the time being his hobby; he had it dug, dried, and sent into town for sale, but probably never gained much pecuniary advantage from his illy-appreciated enterprise. The results of his philosophic study he embodied in an article on "Fuel," which was published in the *American Journal of Science*. Prof. Silliman, in a note to this article, says that while he cannot regard Dr. North's views as tenable, "all will agree that he is performing an important service by attempting to excite the attention of his countrymen to this neglected but valuable resource, the more valuable because it is so extensively diffused and so easily accessible."

Those desirous of learning more of Dr. North's claims and hopes for peat as fuel are referred to the original article, which will well repay perusal. (See *Bibliography*). A few years later

he withdrew from the farm and took up his residence in Huntington street, New London.

In 1829 Dr. North published in the *Connecticut Gazette* and in other papers several essays under the title: "The Rights of Anatomists vindicated," and signed *Vesalius*. These letters were instigated by a law passed by the Connecticut Legislature in 1824, relative to the exhumation of bodies for the purpose of dissection, "which law converted the slight offense of trespass into the heinous one of felony," and placed anatomists in a very difficult position. These letters are written in an argumentative, lively style, abounding in historical allusions, and with great freedom in expressing the author's views; who sought to induce statesmen to modify the law, and at the same time to lessen in the public mind the horror excited by the surgeon's experiments. His remarks on the status of the State Medical Society and its relations to Yale College are of especial interest to the historian of medical progress in Connecticut.

In the same year Dr. North published a volume of 200 pages entitled: "Outlines of the Science of Life; which treats physiologically of both Body and Mind." . . . "To which are added Essays on other subjects." This work gives an interesting insight into the philosophical mind of its author, and in the subjoined essays furnishes incidentally many items which have been already used in preparing this memoir. Dr. North attempts to show that there is in both animals and plants a "sentient spirit" formed by caloric, either from the blood or from the sap, "that every sort of life is dependent upon such a spirit either in an active or a torpid state; that mind as well as the other functions of life is dependent upon this spirit when it is animal, and that no unknown spirit or immaterial nonentity is needed to account for any of the phenomena of vitality." This somewhat materialistic conception is, however, modified by his admitting the immortality of this sentient spirit. He maintains that this spirit originates directly from the blood, and that it is the halitus of the blood, or its elements. And while he regards animals and man alike in respect to this general animal spirit, yet he does not deny the power of God to "make the human soul immortal agreeably to the Christian's faith and hope" (p. 27). He is conscious of the novelty of his views, and before publishing secured from nine physicians (out of ten who examined his MS.) written certificates

favoring the publication. He prints in the belief that "more good than evil will result" from it, and says "little emolument is expected from it; the writing has increased our power as a practical physician, whether it will benefit readers, time must decide."

His work shows a wide acquaintance with the current English literature on physiology, with a predilection for the writings of Darwin; it abounds in illustrations from experience and the testimony of others; its philosophical spirit cannot be questioned, although in the light of modern discovery his conclusions seem untenable. His style is rather repetitious and amusingly discursive, quotations being often introduced from Pope, his favorite poet. His style is also marked by short pithy sentences, which are epigrammatic, and a quaint humor runs throughout the work. A few quotations may well be made, as the book is decidedly scarce.

He speaks of metaphysicians as "curious men who sit at their ease in elbow chairs, for want of something better to do, contemplating and arranging the movements of their own brains *only* into systems of mental philosophy, without interrogating nature abroad as much as they should do" (p. 68).

Referring to social relations, he writes: "Among mankind, the men in private life pretend to govern the women and children. but both the latter often rule the former, and often to the injury of society" (p. 91).

Speaking of the appetites, he says: "The stomach, like a wife, has more power at home than any other organ in the whole family" (p. 52).

The "Science of Life" is followed by six essays reprinted in part from the originals, which we have noticed elsewhere. The most interesting is a "History of Vaccination as practiced in Goshen, Connecticut," a subject we have fully discussed.

Dr. North was fond of recondite studies, and at times made them hobbies. The visit of Dr. Spurzheim to the United States in 1832 awakened an interest throughout the county in phrenology, and Dr. North did not escape the epidemic. He had read and absorbed, though even before this event, the theories of Gall and Spurzheim, and became quite fascinated with them. He published several essays in the local paper (*Connecticut Gazette*), and a small volume bearing the peculiar title: "Pilgrim's Progress in Phrenology by Uncle Toby." In this work "good instruction is given

in the mode of a pleasant conversation in a mixed company of gentlemen and ladies, or to pilgrims in the science." The scene is laid in the town of "Christian Charity," and the conversation is carried on between "Mr. Judicious Discretion, Mr. Phrenologist, Mr. Jealousy, Miss Talkativeness, and Mr. Objector." He claims that phrenology by no means implies materialism and fatalism, and that it is charitable towards all religions. His system of classifying the mental organs differs somewhat from that of Gall and Spurzheim. His dry humor again appears in his writings; he says:

"Mankind are fond of wonderfulness; it is not, however, always necessary to have a big head to command public attention, as some untenably teach; not that I myself have a small head." (p. 68.)

Although Dr. North read and wrote much on topics not immediately connected with his profession, he never neglected his duty towards his fellowmen when called to their aid. He seemed to find recreation in mental exercise unconnected with his business. When Asiatic cholera raged in New London in 1832, he made himself conspicuous by skillfully resisting the destroyer.

Besides the articles cited, Dr. North contributed to the current medical periodicals a number of essays on a variety of topics. So far as we have been able to discover them, they are catalogued in the accompanying bibliography.

Dr. North was exceedingly happy in his family life; his wife was a woman of much character and had the best influence over him; his eight children grew to manhood and womanhood, exhibiting many of the admirable traits of character inherited from both parents. The very names given to three of his boys shows the peculiar bent of his mind; the eldest was named after Harvey, the illustrious discoverer of the circulation of the blood; two others were named after Erasmus Darwin, and William Heberdean, the distinguished Englishmen of science. Three of his sons had the enterprise to found commercial houses in New Orleans, where by industry and unfailing integrity they speedily secured a competence; one of his sons studied medicine, but preferred private study and teaching to the cares of professional life. Yale graduates of twenty-five classes (1830-1854) remember "Lord North" as the painstaking and successful instructor in elocution in that institution. One of his daughters became the wife of the

eminent martyr to science, Dr. Elisha Mitchell, Geologist of North Carolina, and Professor of Chemistry in the University of that State; one married a prominent clergyman of South Carolina, and another daughter married a successful physician of New York city.

One of his children used to relate an anecdote showing his calmness and mild paternal government; when quite young she swallowed a pin, and, greatly alarmed, approached her stern father with the excited cry "I've swallowed a pin!" Dr. North looked up from his book and quietly said: "Well, does it hurt you?" "No, father," replied the child, "Then don't be so careless again!" And this was the end of the consultation.

Being rather careless about keeping his books, making and collecting bills, his good wife used to supervise this important business for family reasons; but in spite of her care, an examination of his ledger after his decease showed this curious entry:

"Mr. Blank, to doctoring you till you died, \$17.50."

Interesting proof of his ill success in collecting bills has been kindly placed in my possession by a member of the New London County Medical Society, in the shape of an unreceipted bill for \$33.08 against the selectmen of the town of Groton, and dated May 23, 1820.

It is related of him that on one occasion he was called upon to treat the foot of a young girl who was foolishly delicate about exposing her naked foot to the physician's gaze. Perceiving her false modesty, as she hesitated to remove her stocking, he said: "Come, Miss Blank, if your foot is clean, let me see it!" Her scruples vanished.

Dr. North was exceedingly absentminded, and this increased with advancing years; devoted to study he sat reading or writing seemingly oblivious of externals, and not noticing persons entering or leaving the room unless they addressed him, when with native courtesy he gave them his attention. The only infirmity which attacked him in his latter years was deafness, and this naturally increased his concentrativeness. His methodical habits, love of philosophical truth, and his singular absentmindedness are exhibited in an anecdote concerning him. A slight fire having broken out in his house while he was in the street near by, a neighbor called out to him: "Doctor, your house is on fire!" He made no reply

but quietly walked into the house. Seeing him so cool, a bystander asked his neighbor and intimate friend Judge Lyman: "What do you suppose the Doctor is going to do?" "Doubtless," answered the judge, "he will consult Count Rumford's works to ascertain the best means for extinguishing fire!"

Dr. North lived to the good age of seventy-three, his later years being passed in comfort and in complete enjoyment of his activity and usefulness; perfect health rewarded his philosophically temperate habits of life. The last act of his life before he was deprived by paralysis of speech and locomotion, was to visit an interesting and important case of disease, and the last connected sentence which he succeeded in uttering was addressed to the physician who took his place in attending the patient.

A memorandum is in possession of the writer bearing the date of his death, December 29, 1843, giving the following particulars: "Height five feet nine inches, an oval and intellectual head with a periphery of twenty-two and six-sevenths inches, mesial line fifteen and one-fourth inches, temperament nervo-sanguine, age seventy-three."

One who knew him well wrote of him thus:

"Dr. North was distinguished by zeal for his patients and the highest degree of integrity, frankness, and disinterestedness, in his intercourse with them, and his efforts for their benefit. His interest in his profession, as a branch of science and as a means of benefiting society and individuals was strong and earnest, and whenever circumstances required took the precedence of all other subjects, yet his mind being incessantly active, was generally occupied when at leisure from the cares and toils of a physician's life with some favorite subject unconnected with the more practical parts of his profession, in expressing his views upon which, he would exhibit an eloquence and an amount of information often astonishingly beyond the importance of the topic, in the estimation of many. His ever active mind dwelt in a remarkable manner in an unworldly sphere of thought and reflection. He lived the life which we attribute to an ancient philosopher; unsuccessful in accumulating property yet in debt to no one; indifferent to a great extent as to his dress and manners, and to his worldly interests, he was often apparently unconscious of the presence of his fellow beings unless his attention was especially called to them. As might be conjectured from this sketch, his moral views were uncommonly pure and high, and it was impossible to suspect him of craft or duplicity. His manners had the simplicity and modesty of those of a child."

The number of individuals yet living who remember the person

of Dr. North is rapidly growing small; our hope is that this inadequate sketch may increase the number of those who will respect his memory.

APPENDIX.

A. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE WRITINGS OF ELISHA NORTH, M.D.

- “Account of the Typhus Fever and its Treatment.” *Phil. Med. Museum*; IV, pp. 16–20 (1808). A letter to Dr. John Redman Coxe, editor, dated Goshen, Conn., Jan. 13, 1807.
- “Letter on Spotted Fever,” dated February 12, 1808, addressed to the Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Fitch. *Berkshire Reporter*, Pittsfield, 1808. Reprinted in his *Treatise*, pp 98–102.
- “History of the Typhus Petechialis, or the Malignant Petechial or Spotted Fever, as it appeared in Goshen, Connecticut, during the winter of 1807–’08; with such Remarks as may tend to elucidate its Nature and to establish the best Method of Cure.” By Elisha North. *Phil. (The) Med. Museum*, conducted by John Redman Coxe; Philadelphia, 1809. Vol. VI, pp. 280–291. Reprinted in his *Treatise*, pp. 126–138. [A letter dated Goshen, February 12, 1809, addressed to Dr. Elijah Munson, New Haven.]
- “Observations on the Hydrocele Capitis Infantum.” *Phil. Med. Museum* (N. S.) I, 59 (1810). [A letter dated Goshen, January 18, 1810, addressed to Dr. John Redman Coxe, the editor.]
- “Observations on Cynanche Trachealis.” *Phil. Med. Museum* (N. S.) I, 112 (1810). [A letter dated Goshen, April 20, 1810.]
- “A Treatise on a Malignant Epidemic, commonly called SPOTTED FEVER; interspersed with remarks on the Nature of Fever in General, etc., and an Appendix in which is republished a number of Essays written by different authors on this epidemic, with the addition of Original Notes; containing, also, a few original and selected cases, with clinical remarks.” By Elisha North. New York: Printed and sold by T. & J. Swords, Printers to the Faculty of Physic of Columbia College, No. 160 Pearl street, 1811, 12 mo, pp. 250.
- “On Extraction of the Stone.” An attempt to demonstrate that the bladder may be opened for the extraction of the stone by a posterior method of operating more conveniently to the surgeon and with much greater safety to the patient than by any other method hitherto discovered. *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, XI, p. 113. Republished in *Phil. J. Med. and Physical Science*, August, 1822.
- “On Fuel.” *The American Journal of Science and Arts*. Conducted by Benjamin Silliman. Vol. XI, pp. 66–78. October, 1826.
- “The Rights of Anatomists Vindicated,” by Vesalius. Three Essays. No. 1 in the *Canal of Intelligence*, Norwich, January 21, 1829. No. 2

in the *State Palladium*, New London, May 12, 1829. No. 3 in the *New London Gazette*, New London, August 19, 1829.

“Outlines of the Science of Life; which treats physiologically of both Body and Mind; designed only for Philosophers and other candid persons. To which are added Essays on other subjects.” By Elisha North, M.D. New York: Collins & Co., 117 Maiden Lane. 1829, xx, 202 pp., 12 mo.

“Five Essays on Phrenology (Anthropology),” in *New London Gazette*. No. 1, January, (?) 1835, signed N——. No. 2, July 1, 1835, signed John Gilpin. No. 3, July 22, 1835, signed N. Nos. 4 and 5 unsigned.

“The Pilgrim’s Progress in Phrenology.” Part I., abridged. By Uncle Toby. New London. Published by Samuel Green. 1836 78 pp. 8vo. *Title on cover*: “The Manly yet Charitable Physiologist’s Progress in Anthropology; or a Short Account of the Art of Making Nice and Useful Demarcations with respect to Organical Differences.” It contains a scrap of Part I, the whole of Part III, Essays, five in number, and an Epitome.

Dr. North also edited “Morrison’s Tract on the Vitality of the Blood.”

B. Copy of a document in possession of the New London County Historical Society.

GROTON, January 8th, 1782.

Wee Whose Names are here Under-Wrighten Desiereth that a Town meeting May be Called as Soon as the Authority of Above S^d town shall think proper for the purport of procuring a Vote of S^d town to carry on the Small pox by Inoculation, as wee are Desierus for Our Selves or Some part of Our Famelies may have that priviledg that our Nabours hath had before us.

Simeon Smith	Nath ^l Niles
William Morgan	Charles Smith
Samuell Adams	Edward Packer
David Adams	Jasper Latham, Jun. ^r
Jabez Shaler	Dan ^l Parker
Obad ^h Bailey	Solomon Perkins
Je ^d Leeds.	Jesse Brown
	John Woodman jr
	James Baley
	Joseph Turner.

C. Extract from a letter (date not given) written to the Selectmen of Groton by Eben Ledyard. In possession of the New London County Historical Society:

“Dr. Cooley offered to inoculate every person in Groton with kinē-pox at $\frac{4}{6}$ pence, and give his bond to pay all expenses if any one got the small pox afterwards.

“ [Signed] EBEN LEDYARD.”

D. Copy of advertisement in the *Connecticut Courant*, February 6, 1811:

Vaccination. In justice to Dr. Elisha North, who is acknowledged to be a man of integrity and skill in his profession, and is believed, from his large experience in the kine-pox, to be peculiarly well versed in the practice of vaccination, we, the subscribers have been induced to state that Dr. North was one among the first who made a vigorous attempt to introduce into this State the use of the cow-pox. Ten years have elapsed since his efforts for this purpose were commenced. The cow-pox, like all other new discoveries, met, for a considerable length of time, with the most determined opposition. The time has, however, at length arrived in which almost every one acknowledges its utility. We, as well as Dr. North, highly approve of the generous method adopted by the towns of New London and Hartford to induce the people to avail themselves of this great blessing.

SAMUEL LYMAN,	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
WILLIAM STANLEY, JR.,	
ERASTUS LYMAN,	
ERASTUS GRISWOLD,	

GOSHEN, Jan. 14, 1811.

The subscriber informs the people in the adjacent towns, that he will with pleasure extend his practice of vaccination to any distance within a convenient day's ride from his usual place of residence. As he always prefers to use fresh infection, it becomes necessary to communicate the kine-pox to numbers at the same time. This method of management is also peculiarly calculated to reduce the expense to each individual to a very moderate sum. The subscriber will, with promptness and gratitude, attend, at their own places of abode, to all such classes as may apply to him for the purpose of receiving the cow-pox. As vaccination, from its very nature, can never be an object worthy the attention of every physician, the subscriber contemplates that those of his medical brethren who may not choose to engage in this practice will not consider this attempt to extend its benefits as any infringement on their medical rights and privileges.

[Signed] ELISHA NORTH.

GOSHEN, Jan. 30, 1811.

The above advertisement was reprinted entire in the *Connecticut Gazette*, New London, June 14, 1815, with the following addition:

The subscriber thinks proper to inform the public in this vicinity that he is ready to vaccinate in the manner he has formerly been accustomed to do, which is detailed in the above advertisement.

[Signed] E. NORTH.

NEW LONDON, June 6, 1815.

Note by H. C. B. In this same number of the *Connecticut Gazette* are two other advertisements of "Kine Pock": one by Elijah Root of East Haddam, who offers to Vaccinate with "genuine Kine Pock matter less than four years old"; and one by Sylvester Wooster of Lyme.

E. Copy of advertisement in the *Connecticut Gazette*, New London, Wednesday, July 1, 1812:

The subscriber not long since notified the citizens of New London and its neighborhood that he had removed to New London, where he offered himself as a practitioner in physic and surgery, and having lately been informed that it was understood he did not intend to practice midwifery, he now takes this opportunity to inform the public that he will as readily attend on calls of that description as any other; also, that he has been much experienced in that part of his profession for twenty years past.

June 30, 1812.

ELISHA NORTH.

F. Copy of advertisement in the *Connecticut Gazette*, New London, May 5, 1819:

To physicians, clergymen, selectmen, and others, whose duty it is to take the lead in society in cases where sickness is concerned.

The subscriber wishes to be permitted to give information that he has invented a new mode of performing the operation of lithotomy, or cutting for the stone in the bladder, which he is CONFIDENT will greatly lessen the danger arising from that source. He hereby offers his services to any one who may have the misfortune to require a surgeon for that purpose. He also wishes to give information that he has so far improved the instruments used for drawing off the urine in cases of obstruction of that fluid, that in future no person need necessarily die from that CAUSE ALONE. He has also now acquired experimental knowledge in the treatment of permanent strictures of the urethra by the Caustic Bougie (a species of knowledge not often acquired in the country), and hereby offers his services to any one who may be afflicted with that distressing complaint. He can also give correct advice and furnish the most improved trusses for ruptured persons. It may not be unuseful to state that, in the management of diseases of the eye I have had the pleasure to prevent total blindness and restore sight to twelve or thirteen persons during the last three years. These would now probably be moping about in total darkness, and be a burden to society and to themselves, had it not been for my individual exertions. Editors of newspapers in and about this region will probably confer a benefit upon society by giving this one insertion in their papers.

[Signed]

ELISHA NORTH.

NEW LONDON, April, 1819.

We, the subscribers, being personal friends and medical brethren residing in the same town with Dr. North, believe the publication of the above will probably benefit society.

[Signed]

THOS. COIT, M.D.,
ARCHIBALD MERCER,
D. T. BRAINARD,
N. S. PERKINS.



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